

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
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May 29, 2013

The Honorable Ray H. LaHood
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the City of Albany, I am writing to express my strong support for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant application submitted to you by the City of Alameda, California. The **San Francisco Bay Trail Expansion and Repair** project will have a vast impact by providing greater access and alternatives to automobiles, integration with mass transit systems and increased transportation safety connecting several important links in our transportation system.

There are many benefits to the Bay Trail transportation network. The network of trails alleviates vehicle congestion, addresses pedestrian and bicycle safety as well as improves accessibility to the Bay Area Rapid Transit system, buses, ferries, Amtrak and the Capitol Corridor commuter rail service. These Bay Trail projects are key pedestrian and bicycle components to be repaired and constructed to provide the needed connections for a completed 500-mile system. The project will provide "last mile" access to commute alternatives, and will reduce congestion, our dependence on fossil fuels and health care costs. Due to the San Francisco Bay Area's mild climate, these Bay Trail segments will provide year-round access to schools, employment centers and shopping, and will serve an economically and ethnically diverse population.

The five Bay Trail projects in this TIGER grant application are as follows:

- Bay Farm Island Trail Resurface/Widen (City of Alameda)
- Clement Avenue Bikeway/Truck Route (City of Alameda)
- Gilman to Buchanan Bay Trail (Cities of Albany and Berkeley)
- Pinole Shores to Bayfront Park Trail (City of Pinole)
- Shore Line Drive / Westline Drive Cycle Track (City of Alameda)

The City of Albany is working in partnership with the East Bay Regional Park District and the City of Alameda. I fully support the City of Alameda's application and coordination of all the cities involved. I urge your serious consideration of this worthy project. I look forward to speaking with you personally about this project.

Sincerely,

Peggy Thomsen
Mayor, City of Albany